Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method of call admission control for continuous streams of data in packet switched networks including at least two local area networks that are in communication with one another across a connecting network, the method comprising the steps of:

a) determining an acceptable packet loss rate for a call which is to be established between two of the local area networks;

b) determining an actual packet loss rate for the call prior to the call being established;

~~b)~~ c) comparing the actual packet loss rate to the acceptable ~~packet~~ loss rate for the call prior to the call being established; and

~~c)~~ d) dropping the call to be established if the actual packet loss rate is greater than the acceptable packet loss rate;

wherein, prior to ~~actually~~ dropping the call to be established, said method includes the further step of changing the priority of the transmission of the continuous stream of data when the actual packet loss rate is not acceptable, and repeating steps a) to [[c)]] d).

2. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, wherein step [[c)]] d) includes determining for how long a time period the actual packet loss rate has been happening and utilizing that time period in deciding whether to drop the call.

3. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 13, further ~~comprising~~ including the step of playing a recorded announcement when the call is to be dropped.

4. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 13, further including, prior to step d), the step of increasing the priority of the transmission of the continuous stream of data when the actual packet loss rate is not acceptable and repeating steps a) to [[c)]] d).

5. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method according to ~~claim 3~~ claim 13, further including the ~~steps~~ step of storing data relating to dropped calls for future use.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim [[6]] 3, further including the step of storing data relating to dropped calls for future use.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 12, wherein the call to be established is being established by an initiating telephone connected to a first of the local area networks, and wherein said method is carried out by the initiating telephone.

11. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein step b) comprises transmitting a trial burst of packets and analysing the returned packets to determine the actual packet loss.

12. (New) A method of call admission control for continuous streams of data in packet switched networks including at least two local area networks that are in communication with one another across a connecting network, the method comprising the steps of:

a) determining an acceptable packet loss rate for a call which is to be established between two of the local area networks;

b) determining an actual packet loss rate for the call prior to the call being established by transmitting a trial burst of packets and analysing the returned packets to determine the actual packet loss;

c) comparing the actual packet loss rate to the acceptable loss rate for the call prior to the call being established; and

d) dropping the call to be established if the actual packet loss rate is greater than the acceptable packet loss rate;

wherein, prior to dropping the call to be established, said method includes the further step of changing the priority of the transmission of the continuous stream of data when the actual packet loss rate is not acceptable, and repeating steps a) to d).

13. (New) A method of call admission control for continuous streams of data in packet switched networks including at least two local area networks that are in communication with one another across a connecting network, the method comprising the steps of:

a) determining an acceptable packet loss rate for a call which is to be established between two of the local area networks;

b) determining an actual packet loss rate for the call prior to the call being established by transmitting a trial burst of packets and analysing the returned packets to determine the actual packet loss;

c) comparing the actual packet loss rate to the acceptable loss rate for the call prior to the call being established; and

d) dropping the call to be established if the actual packet loss rate is greater than the acceptable packet loss rate.